

Training Personnel for the Education of Individuals with Disabilities (CFDA No. 84.029)

I. Legislation

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part D, Sections 631, 632, 634, and 635, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1431, 1432, 1434, and 1435), expired September 30, 1995, operated under the authority of the appropriations act in FY 1996.

II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
1966	\$19,500,000	1991	\$69,288,099
1970	36,610,000	1992	80,800,000
1975	37,700,000	1993	90,122,537
1980	55,375,000	1994	91,339,000
1985	61,000,000	1995	91,339,000
1990	71,000,000	1996	91,339,000

III. Analysis of Program Performance

A. Goals and Objectives

This program supported grants to improve the quality and reduce shortages of personnel providing special education, related services, and early intervention services to children with disabilities.

B. Strategies to Achieve the Goals

Services Supported

Grants were awarded to institutions of higher education, state education agencies, and other appropriate nonprofit organizations to (1) train teachers and other education personnel, administrators, related services personnel, and early intervention personnel; (2) develop and demonstrate new approaches to personnel training; (3) support partnerships for personnel training; and (4) help state education agencies provide a comprehensive system of training for special education personnel.

Training programs were usually located in universities and typically supported the costs of a project director/coordinator, student stipends, and, in some cases, instructor salaries. All teacher training projects funded in recent years concentrated on preparing students for a baccalaureate or graduate degree in special education or related services areas. Projects were also funded to develop related services personnel, teacher trainers, researchers, administrators, and other specialists (V.1, V.2, V.3). The Special Projects competition supported projects to develop and demonstrate new approaches for preparing to serve children with disabilities, such as the preservice training of regular educators and the preservice and in-service training of special education personnel, including classroom aides, related services personnel, and regular education personnel who serve children and youth with disabilities. Some project activities assisted under this priority were development, evaluation, and distribution of imaginative or innovative approaches to personnel preparation and development of materials to prepare

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personnel to educate children and youth with disabilities. Special projects also supported training in computer technology; adapted physical education, corrections education, transition from school, parent training, training to work with assistive devices (V.1.).

State education agency grants supported states in establishing and maintaining pre- and inservice training of special education and related service personnel. This program also supported recruitment and retention activities.

In FY 1995 most of the funding was awarded to institutions of higher education for personnel training (78 percent), while 12 percent was awarded for special projects, and 10 percent was awarded to state education agencies for development and training activities. A total of 832 awards were made: 696 grants to colleges and universities for personnel training, 79 grants for development and demonstration projects, and 57 grants to state education agencies. One award was made for a technical assistance project to provide support for the state personnel development activities (V.2).

C. Program Performance—Indicators of Impact and Effectiveness

None. Performance indicators are being developed for successor programs authorized by the IDEA Amendments of 1997.

IV. Planned Studies

None.

V. Sources of Information

1. Program files.
2. Eighteenth Annual Report to Congress on Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, 1996).
3. Seventeenth Annual Report to Congress on Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, 1995).
4. State education agency reports.
5. Reports from personnel training grant recipients, 1995.

VI. Contacts for Further Information

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